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NA 267400

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1958 JUN 18 PM 56

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DEPT felt it was sufficient to suggest idea of some statement to Germans  
and did not feel it appropriate to press subject on Brentano during discussions  
in Washington.

In review of subject in preparation for Brentano visit, we noted statement  
in Bonn's 3362 RPTD Warsaw 153 Paris 610 London 397, that Germans ready to void  
decision on arming Bundeswehr if agreement reached on general disarmament. This  
formula appears to us on reflection to be considerable oversimplification. In  
point of fact, our disarmament proposals do not contemplate elimination of  
atomic weapons and we find it difficult to conceive circumstances under which  
German NATO forces would not require nuclear capability so long as such cap-  
ability exists in Soviet forces. Accordingly we believe formula should place  
emphasis more specifically on need for weapons to counter Soviet capabilities

Drafted by:  
EUR:GER:JJReinstein/ea 6/17/58

Telegraphic transmission and  
classification approved by:

G - Robert Murphy

Clearances:

RA - Mr. Timmons  
S/AE - Mr. Farley  
GER - Mr. Lisle  
Mr. Creel

EE - Mr. Freers  
EUR - Mr. Kohler

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and should make specific reference to Soviet nuclear capabilities. It occurs to DEPT that better formulation would be one in which Germans express willingness void decision on arming Bundeswehr if agreement reached on measures of general disarmament which remove requirement for such arming in face of uncontrolled Soviet nuclear and conventional capabilities. This formula would, it seems to us, be responsive to German political requirements/ ~~and~~ ~~which would place emphasis correctly on need for weapons to counter Soviet capabilities.~~ would place emphasis correctly on need for weapons to counter Soviet capabilities.

*Stelle  
my*

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